

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00046 101659Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W

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R 101415Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1572

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 46

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: THE PROVISIONALS AND THE PEACE MOVEMENT

REF: (A) BELFAST 44 (B) DUBLIN 231 (C) DUBLIN 256

1. CONGEN CONFIRMS UNPUBLICIZED FIGURE OF MORE THAN 700 (ABOUT 720) PROVISIONAL IRA ACTIVITIST CHARGED AND CONVICTED IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN 1976 (REFTEL C). THIS IS ALMOST TWICE THE FIGURE FOR 1975, A PROVISIONAL "TRUCE" OR CEASEFIRE PERIOD.

2. "CLIMATE OF OPINION" SYMBOLIZED BY PEACE MOVEMENT IS BELIEVED BY MANY TO ACCOUNT FOR SLOWLY CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARD ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY. IT IS FACT THAT RECRUITMENT OF CATHOLICS IS FRACTIONALLY UP AND GREATER THAN AT ANY TIME IN RECENT YEARS. PEACE MOVEMENT IS FAR FROM DEAD. IT HAS ESTABLISHED CROSS COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GROUPS AND NUMBER ADHERENTS INCREASING. ACTIVITIES OF MAIREAD CORRIGAN IN SCHOOLS HAVE BROUGHT MANY TOUGH PROTESTANT YOUNGSTERS INTO NEW YOUTH PEACE BRANCHES. THE ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION IN SHANKILL AREA THIS WEEK MADE TENTATIVE MOVES TOWARDS COOPERATION WITH MOVEMENT. PEACE MOVEMENT HAS PROBLEMS (REFTEL. ONE IS CIARAN MC KEOWN WHO MAY BE GENUINE AND SINCERE BUT WHOSE STATEMENTS AND PLANS INDICATE AN INCOMPLETE AWARENESS OF THE
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CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLES AND THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND AT PRESENT.

3. NEWSWEEK REPORTER (MC PHERSON) NOW RPT NOW IN BELFAST ASSESSING STRENGTH AND ORGANIZATION PROVISIONAL IRA. REPORTING OFFICER EXPRESSED NO RPT NO OPINION BUT DIRECTED MC PHERSON TO MAIN PROPONENTS TWO COMPETING THEORIES, (A) NORTHERN IRELAND

OFFICE AND (B) DAVID MC KITTRICK, NORTHERN EDITOR, IRISH TIMES.

4. CONGEN HAS OTHER OBSERVATIONS ON SOUTHERN OPTIC BUT MUST
DEFER SUBMISSION.SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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